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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

• ROUTINE

COUNTRY COSTA RICA/NICARAGUA/HONDURAS

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAY 2002

DATE OF
INFO.

DISTR. 27 NOVEMBER 1965

SUBJECT

ARRIVAL OF MIGUEL RUIZ HERRERO IN MIAMI, FLORIDA,
WITH MONEY FOR PURCHASE OF WEAPONS AND TIME TABLE
FOR PLOT TO OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA

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AND
APPRAISAL

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1. () COMMENT: JOSE IVAN ALEGRETT, FORMER NICARAGUAN VICE-CONSUL IN MIAMI, FLORIDA, IS INVOLVED WITH COSTA RICAN GROUPS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCISCO ORLICH, PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA, BEFORE THE ELECTIONS IN 1966 BECAUSE OF AN ALLEGED FEAR THAT COMMUNIST ELEMENTS MIGHT WIN THE ELECTIONS. MIGUEL RUIZ HERRERO, A COSTA RICAN REVOLUTIONARY AND LEADING ORGANIZER IN NICARAGUA OF THE COUP EFFORT, HAS BEEN EXPECTED SINCE THE WEEK OF 20 NOVEMBER 1965 TO PICK UP WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES IN MIAMI, FLORIDA, FOR TRANSPORT BY AIR TO CENTRAL AMERICA.)

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

STATE/INR DIA ARMY/ACSI NAVY AIR JCS SECDEF NSA NIC AID USIA OCI ONE OCR ORR OO
FAA CUSTOMS FBI I&NS TREASURY COAST GUARD CIA/INOC

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2. ON 24 NOVEMBER 1965 MIGUEL RUIZ HERRERO WAS IN MIAMI, FLORIDA, AND HAD MET WITH A GROUP OF 11 PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE PLOT TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCISCO ORLICH, PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA. AMONG THOSE WHO WERE PRESENT DURING THIS MEETING WERE LUIS SIERRA LOPEZ, JOSE IVAN ALEGRETT, RUIZ HERRERO, SEVERAL CUBAN EMIGRES, AND GENERAL GUSTAVO MONTIEL BERMUDEZ, CHIEF OF THE NICARAGUAN OFFICE OF NATIONAL SECURITY. DURING THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSIONS MONTIEL INDICATED THAT HE WAS FULLY APPRISED OF THE COUP ATTEMPT AND WAS IN ACCORD WITH THE NECESSITY FOR THE COUP.

2. THIS MEETING WAS CALLED TO PERMIT RUIZ HERRERO TO DELIVER SOME MONEY FOR PURCHASES OF MILITARY MATERIEL AND TO ADVISE THE OTHERS OF THE TIME-TABLE FOR THE COUP ATTEMPT IN COSTA RICA. RUIZ BROUGHT SOME 200,000 COLONS, EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT \$30,000 (US), WITH WHICH HE HOPES TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE PURCHASE OF OVER 250 M-2 FOLDING STOCK CARBINES, AND ABOUT A DOZEN EACH M-3 SUBMACHINE GUNS AND BERETTA PISTOLS. THE LAST TWO ITEMS ARE TO BE EQUIPPED WITH SILENCERS. RUIZ HERRERO ALSO NEEDS ABOUT 10,000 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION FOR THE CARBINES, A COUPLE OF BACK-PACK WALKIE-TALKIE SETS, AND THE USE OF A C-46 TYPE AIRCRAFT FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF THE MATERIEL. RUIZ HERRERO INDICATED THAT NO EXPLOSIVES OR DEMOLITIONS WOULD BE NEEDED.

3. SOME OF THOSE ATTENDING THE MEETING, INCLUDING SIERRA, WERE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PURCHASE THE CARBINES AND THE AMMUNITION IN NEW YORK OR CONNECTICUT, AND TO OBTAIN THE OTHER

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AGE 3

WEAPONS AND RADIOS IN THE MIAMI AREA.

4. RUIZ HERRERO ASKED ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS AT THE MEETING TO CONTACT ANDREW ARTHUR GERTEIT AND ARRANGE FOR THIS INDIVIDUAL AND GERTEIT TO FLY TO MANAGUA, NICARAGUA, SOMETIME DURING THE WEEK OF 29 NOVEMBER. RUIZ HERRERO, WHO PLANS TO DEPART FROM MIAMI ON 26 NOVEMBER WILL PLAN TO MEET THESE TWO IN MANAGUA WHERE HE CLAIMS TO HAVE A CESSNA 180. THIS AIRCRAFT WILL BE USED FOR A FLIGHT OVER COSTA RICA TO SELECT A LANDING AREA WHICH IS TO BE USED SUBSEQUENTLY FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE MILITARY MATERIEL TO COSTA RICA. WHEN GERTEIT AND HIS COMPANION RETURN TO MIAMI, FLORIDA, THEY WILL CARRY WITH THEM ADDITIONAL COLONS TO PAY FOR THE WEAPONS AND OTHER MATERIEL AND REQUIRED SERVICES. RUIZ HERRERO CLAIMS THAT HE HAS TRIED TO CHANGE THE COLONS INTO DOLLARS IN LATIN AMERICA, BUT AS HE WAS ENCOUNTERING CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY, HE HAS ASKED THAT AN ATTEMPT BE MADE TO CONVERT THE MONEY INTO DOLLARS IN THE UNITED STATES. RUIZ HERRERO INDICATED THAT HE HAD FINANCIAL BACKING AMOUNTING TO ABOUT \$100,000 (US) AND THAT PART OF THIS MONEY WAS PROVIDED BY FERNANDO CASTRO CERVANTES.

S 15. FOLLOWING GERTEIT'S RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES, AND WHEN ALL OF THE MILITARY MATERIEL HAS BEEN OBTAINED, GERTEIT AND ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL ARE TO RENT A C-46 TYPE AIRCRAFT SOMEWHERE IN THE NORTH-EASTERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES. THE MILITARY MATERIEL IS TO BE LOADED ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT AT SOME UNSPECIFIED FIELD IN THE NORTH-EASTERN AREA FOLLOWING WHICH THE AIRCRAFT WILL FLY TOWARD THE MID-WESTERN

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WESTERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES. THE PILOTS WILL THEN FILE A FLIGHT PLAN FOR HONDURAS WHERE LANDING AUTHORITY HAS ALREADY BEEN OBTAINED. THE AIRCRAFT, HOWEVER, WILL FLY DIRECTLY TO THE PRE-SELECTED LANDING FIELD IN COSTA RICA, DELIVER THE MATERIEL, THEN FLY TO HONDURAS WHERE IT WILL RE-FUEL. FOLLOWING THIS THE AIRCRAFT WILL RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES. RUIZ HERRERO HAS SUGGESTED THAT IF THE AIRCRAFT CANNOT DEPART LEGALLY FROM THE UNITED STATES WITHOUT BEING INSPECTED THEN THE AIRCRAFT ~~WOULD~~ TAKE OFF WITHOUT FILING A FLIGHT PLAN.

6. IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT ~~THE USE~~ OF THE AIRCRAFT WILL COST SOME \$3,000 (US) WHICH INCLUDES THE ACTUAL RENTAL FOR ABOUT A TWO-WEEK PERIOD AND THE DEPOSIT ON THE AIRCRAFT.

7. RUIZ HERRERO STATED THAT HE WISHED ALL OF THE PRELIMINARY PREPARATIONS COMPLETED AND THE WEAPONS PURCHASED BY ABOUT 15 DECEMBER BECAUSE THE COUP ATTEMPT IS TO BE MADE SOME TIME DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS. THERE ARE TWO PRIMARY PRELIMINARY OBJECTIVES TO THIS COUP ATTEMPT. ONE IS TO DESTROY ~~SEVERAL AMMUNITION~~ DUMPS WHICH ARE APART FROM POLICE AND ARMY BARRACKS, THUS DENYING THEIR USE TO THE POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES. THE OTHER OBJECTIVE IS TO ASSASSINATE A NUMBER OF COSTA RICAN COMMUNISTS DURING THE COURSE OF THE NIGHT. IT IS RUIZ HERRERO'S CONTENTION THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE AN EFFECTIVE PARAMILITARY FORCE IN COSTA RICA, AND THAT EVEN IF THE COMMUNISTS DO NOT WIN THE ELECTIONS, THEY WILL UTILIZE THEIR PARAMILITARY FORCE TO TAKE OVER THE COUNTRY. BY ELIMINATING THE COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP ON THE NIGHT OF THE COUP THE COMMUNIST PARAMILITARY FORCE WILL BE

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DENIED ITS LEADERS. RUIZ HERRERO HAS ASKED ALEGRETTE TO RECRUIT HALF A DOZEN CUBAN EMIGRES WHO WILL BE ASSIGNED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CARRYING OUT THE ASSASSINATIONS.

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8. FIELD DISSEM: CINCLANT, CINCSO, COMKWESTFOR, MIAMI REPS
STATE, FAA, CUSTOMS, FBI, I&NS, BORDER PATROL, USCG

END OF MESSAGE

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